

SENATE BILL 598

By Woodson

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49,
Chapter 4, Part 9, relative to postsecondary
financial assistance from net lottery proceeds.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-4-909(a)(5), is amended by deleting the language "for the total number of semester hours that the student has attempted".

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-4-911, is amended by deleting subsections (a), (b) and (c) in their entirety and by substituting instead the following:

(a) To continue to receive a Tennessee HOPE scholarship, a student at an eligible postsecondary institution shall continue to meet all applicable requirements for the scholarship and shall reapply for the scholarship before the established deadlines for each academic term. At the end of the first academic year, the student shall have achieved a cumulative grade point average of at least 2.75 to continue to receive the Tennessee HOPE scholarship. Eligibility for the Tennessee HOPE scholarship shall also be reviewed at the end of each subsequent academic year. At the end of any subsequent academic year prior to receiving a baccalaureate degree or reaching the maximum number years for which a scholarship shall be funded under § 49-4-913, the student shall achieve a cumulative grade point average of at least 3.0 to continue to receive the scholarship during the following academic year.

(b) A student receiving a Tennessee HOPE scholarship, who ceases to be academically eligible for the scholarship because the student fails to achieve the cumulative grade point average required at the end of an academic year, may regain the HOPE scholarship, if the student continues to meet all applicable nonacademic requirements for the scholarship, attends an eligible postsecondary institution without

the HOPE scholarship, achieves a cumulative grade point average of at least 3.0 at the end of any academic year, and reapplies for the scholarship. A student who regains the scholarship and then loses the scholarship a second time, by failing to achieve a cumulative grade point average of at least 3.0 at the end of a subsequent academic year in which academic qualifications are reviewed, may not regain the scholarship. No retroactive award of a Tennessee HOPE scholarship shall be made under this subsection (b) for any academic year in which a student was attempting to regain the scholarship.

SECTION 3. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-4-911, is further amended by redesignating subsection (d) as subsection (c) and subsection (e) as subsection (d).

SECTION 4. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-4-913(a), is amended by deleting subdivision (2) in its entirety and by substituting instead the following:

(2) The student has been enrolled at any postsecondary institution for five (5) full-time equivalent years.

SECTION 5. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-4-913(a), is amended by deleting subdivision (3) in its entirety.

SECTION 6. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-4-913, is amended by deleting subsection (b) in its entirety.

SECTION 7. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-4-916(d), is amended by deleting the second sentence of subdivision (2) in its entirety and by substituting instead the following sentence:

The student shall have a cumulative grade point average of at least 2.75 at the end of the first academic year to be eligible to receive a Tennessee HOPE scholarship award and a General Assembly Merit Scholar supplemental award to attend an eligible postsecondary institution during the next academic year.

SECTION 8. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-4-916(e), is amended by deleting the word "semester" in the first sentence of the subsection and by substituting instead the words "academic year".

SECTION 9. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-4-919(a), is amended by deleting subdivisions (2) and (3) in their entirety and by substituting instead the following:

(2) The student has been enrolled at any postsecondary institution for five (5) full-time equivalent years.

SECTION 10. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-4-920(b), is amended by deleting the first sentence of subdivision (1) and by substituting instead the following:

A Tennessee HOPE access grant shall be awarded to an eligible student only until the end of the semester in which the student has completed the first academic year.

SECTION 11. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-4-920(e)(1), is amended by deleting the language "the semester in which the student has attempted twenty-four (24) semester hours" wherever it appears and by substituting instead the language "the first academic year".

SECTION 12. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-4-920(e), is amended by deleting the first sentence of subdivision (2) in its entirety and by substituting instead the following sentence:

If a student receiving a Tennessee HOPE access grant does not achieve a cumulative grade point average of at least 2.75 at the end of the first academic year, but the student, without financial assistance from lottery proceeds, continues to attend an eligible postsecondary institution and achieves a cumulative grade point average of at least 3.0 at the end of a subsequent academic year when eligibility for a scholarship is checked, then the student shall be eligible for a Tennessee HOPE scholarship, if the student meets all other applicable requirements.

SECTION 13. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-4-920(f), is amended by deleting subdivisions (2) and (3) in their entireties and by substituting instead the following:

(2) The student has been enrolled at any postsecondary institution for five (5) full-time equivalent years.

SECTION 14. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-4-929, is amended by deleting subsection (c) in its entirety and by substituting instead the following:

(c) If the student transfers to an eligible postsecondary institution before completion of a second academic year, then the student shall have a cumulative grade point average of at least 2.75 at the time of transfer to be eligible academically for the scholarship. If the student transfers to an eligible postsecondary institution after completion of a second academic year, then the student shall have a cumulative grade point average of at least 3.0 at the time of transfer to be eligible academically for the scholarship.

SECTION 15. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-4-930, is amended by deleting subsection (c) in its entirety and by substituting instead the following:

(c) Semester hours attempted under a dual enrollment grant shall not count, under § 49-4-913, toward the limitation on the receipt of a Tennessee HOPE scholarship.

SECTION 16. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-4-931(a), is amended by deleting subdivision (4) in its entirety and by substituting instead the following:

(4) Attend an eligible postsecondary institution and complete the first academic year;

SECTION 17. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-4-931, is amended by deleting subsection (b) in its entirety and by substituting instead the following:

(b) A nontraditional student shall be eligible for a Tennessee HOPE scholarship

at the end of the semester in which the student has completed the first academic year, if the student has a cumulative grade point average of at least 2.75. A nontraditional student who does not achieve a cumulative grade point average of at least 2.75 at the end of the first academic year shall be eligible for a Tennessee HOPE scholarship, if the student achieves a cumulative grade point average of at least 3.0 at the end of any subsequent academic year in which eligibility is reviewed under § 49-4-911.

SECTION 18. This act shall take effect July 1, 2007, the public welfare requiring it.